THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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Saint Leo focuses the nation on global warming

BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

Classes were shortened on Thursday, January 31 in order for students and faculty to attend Focus the Nation, a series of presentations given by students and professors alike on global warming.

Focus the Nation is not just a local event. It's actually a nation-wide effort to try and engage people in a discussion about global warming and climate change. The idea is to get individuals thinking about global warming and climate change and to brainstorm solutions to the growing problem.

Tribute for bringing Focus the Nation to Saint Leo can be given to environmental science professor, Dr. Christopher Miller. He was actually contacted by the people of Focus the Nation who asked him if he would incorporate Saint Leo in the nation-wide event.

"Somehow, I'm the contact for stuff like this," Miller said.

He was interested but first had to get in contact with Dr. Maribeth Durst, vice president of Academic Affairs. Though their schedules often clashed and Miller wasn't able to get a hold of Durst until December, Focus the Nation at Saint Leo still turned out to be a worthwhile day.

"Penny Freeman helped out a lot. We used the model for Academic Excellence Day," Miller said.

Focus the Nation at Saint Leo held more than 35 presentations from 1 p.m. to about 3 p.m. All of the presentations were widely varied and were organized into groups by a common theme. The themes ranged anywhere from tourism, to religion, and to the basics of global warming.

At the end of it all, there was a reception in the Student Community Center Board Room A-C. More than 60 people showed up for drinks, food, and a poem reading by Dr. Kurt Van Wilt.

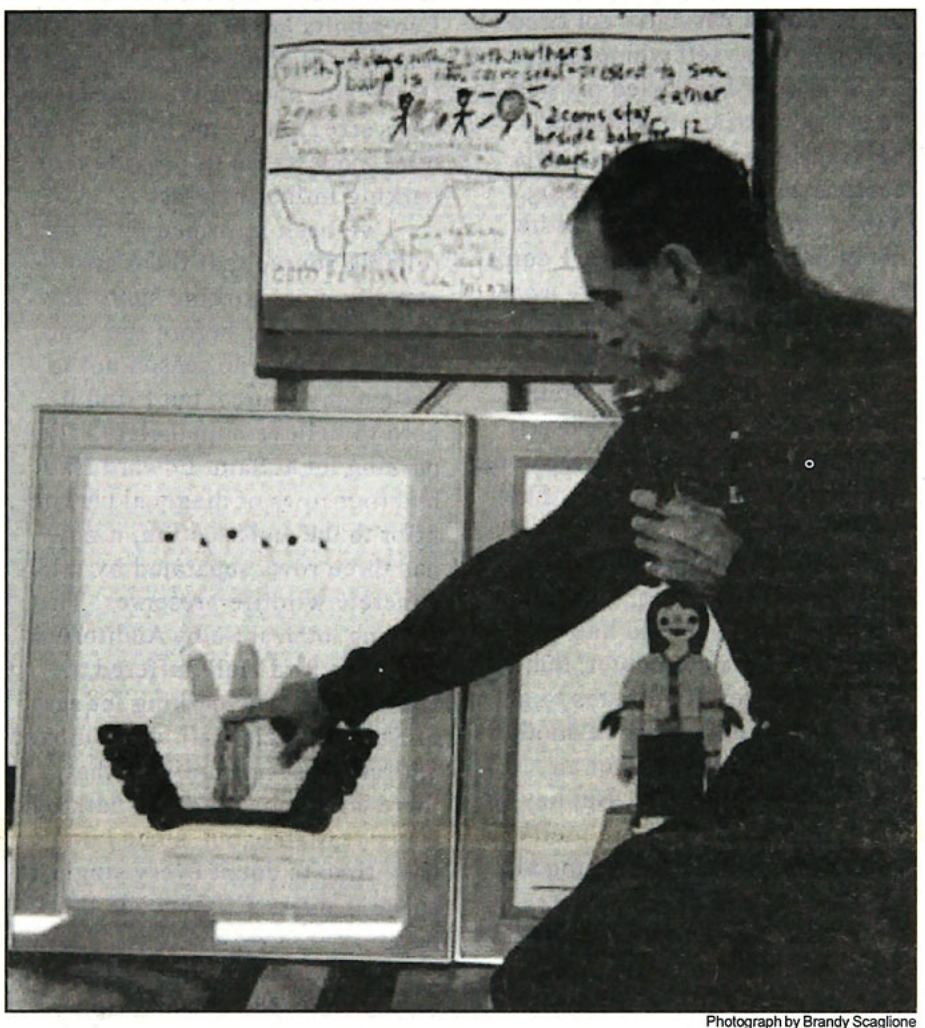
Wilt gave a short and relevant history of the Native American Pueblo tribe, complete with paintings, before taking out his drum and singing a song. He then recited a poem titled "How to get Lily White" before stepping away from the limelight.

Free time to converse was allotted after Wilt had finished. There were boards left up for people to write down their own personal thoughts on the presentations, global warming, and climate change.

Miller is unsure if Focus the Nation at Saint Leo was a one-time deal. Miller hopes to do the something similar next year.

"It's up to the people at Focus the Nation," Miller said. "The thirty-first wasn't the best date because it's hard to get people so organized right when the semester starts. If we did it next year, or something similar, I would want it to be in late February. I would also want it student run, or at least partially."

Although Focus the Nation was a huge success on campus, it was a bit ironic that there weren't any recycling bins for the multitude of soda cans thrown away during the reception.



Photograph by Brandy Scaglione
Dr. Kurt Van Wilt explains a Native American Pueblo painting and the creational views displayed within the painting.

Maybe next year.

"I always tell my students that there has to be an element of irony in everything you do or else it won't be complete," Miller said. "But honestly, this was a last minute thing. But recycling bins are on the way to Saint Leo. Most people think getting recycling bins are easy, but really it's not."

Hopefully, next year there will be an even greater turn out of students, and more time to plan for recycling. For those who are interested, competitions, model agendas, and recycling ideas can all be found at www.focusthenation.org.

Student Counseling Center offers help through many different services

BY KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief

After a recent suicide last semester, Saint Leo University Student Counseling Center is reminding students of the help available to them during the school year.

A Saint Leo freshman was rushed to the hospital during fall semester 2007 after an attempted suicide in the Marmion dormitory. The paramedics were called and intervened after resident life staff, fellow students, and campus safety followed the proper protocol.

"The student is doing well. He is home with family," said Jeff Baylor, assistant vice president for Student Services.

"The Residence Life staff handled the situation properly. They responded quickly and cared for all of the students. The staff did an outstanding job. They were well-trained to assist the student, worked with his family immediately, and the counseling staff responded to the scene to provide immediate care to students in the area," said Baylor.

Saint Leo staff is equipped with "Gate Keeper" training. The training teaches how to properly help students and staff, and how to recognize students in distress.

"All of Residence Life, including residence assistants, and chaplains completed this training. It is offered to all groups on campus, and they are welcome to complete the training," said Lawson Jolly, director of Counseling and Career Services.

Any time there is an event on campus that might cause students distress, counselors are available at all times, not just during the school hours. Counseling services consist of two counselors, Jolly and Tricia Thibodeau. There is one counselor who is always on call, and both live ten minutes from the campus and can arrive here quickly. The most important thing to remember is to talk to somebody and try to seek help.

"It all depends on who you are comfortable talking to. Residence Life is always available if you just want to talk. But if you are having serious problems, it is more critical to go to counseling services," said Baylor.

Saint Leo has many counseling services available. There are individual, group, and even couples counseling, all of which are available free of charge to full time students. Counseling sessions are completely private. As long as the student is 18 years of age, sessions are confidential, except possibly when the person is in danger, endangering someone else, or is involved in child or elder abuse.

"It is very uncommon for someone to act on attempts to injure themself. But, it is not uncommon for someone to feel depressed. People seek help for depression and anxiety very often," said Jolly.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the second largest leading cause of death among college students and the third leading cause of death among all youth 15–24 years old.

"Almost always suicide is preventable, and the problem is treatable. That is why it is so important for room

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Opinions

Parking problems persist on campus

BY JOSHUA M. SMITH
Lions' Pride Online Editor

One day, several years ago, I stopped talking so much. You see, after years of talking peoples' ears off, I finally took the time to listen to myself. I found that 85 percent of everything coming out of my mouth was a complaint. So, I shut up, because I basically got tired of listening to myself whine.

And so, I have tried my best to keep my frustration with the parking situation on Saint Leo's campus under control, thinking, nobody wants to hear me whine about parking. Now, while I don't believe anyone particularly *wants* to hear me complain, over the last two days I've decided that an expression of my disgust would ultimately be a cathartic experience and, in the long run, make me a more pleasant person. So, here is my rant.

Those parking lots sure are aesthetically pleasing, aren't they? Yes, they are. I should know. After all, I'm a commuter, that is, one who drives 30 minutes to get to Saint Leo only to drive another 10-20 minutes looking for an available parking spot. But hey, at least the parking lots are pretty; it makes my fruitless searching all the more worthwhile.

According to some Florida law, new parking lots are required to include a certain amount of plant life. Ostensibly, this is to counteract the adverse environmental effects of paving a large surface that would otherwise be an empty field. The result is far fewer parking spaces and far more curb-divided mulch repositories. While I will concede that the presence of baby palm trees and grasses will help counteract the pollution spewed by the gas-guzzling cars they displace, I feel obligated to point out that, if those baby palm trees and grasses weren't in my parking spot, I wouldn't be forced to run my exhaust-spewing automobile an extra 10-20 minutes each day. So much for the environment.

However, I don't necessarily blame the administration for adhering to the law of the land; in fact, I applaud them for it. I will, though, express the sentiment that perhaps more open field should have been requisitioned for the new parking lots so there would be at least as much parking as before. Considering the fact Saint Leo admits larger and larger numbers of students each year (Have you noticed the increase in class size?), it seems like it would have made sense to provide more parking rather than less.

I've been informed by a reliable source that there are actually more parking spots now than there were before the renovations. I have no reason not to believe my source, but I find it hard to believe nonetheless. The parking lot at Saint Edward Hall had four rows of diagonal parking prior to the construction; it now has three rows separated by mini-concrete wildlife preserves. The parking lot near Selby Auditorium and Crawford Hall suffered a similar fate. The parking lot east of Saint Francis Hall was removed entirely. It seems unlikely that there could now be more parking spots available, but, since I don't have time to count every single space, I guess I'll concede the point.

And besides, help is apparently on the way! The construction plans for Saint Leo's main campus include the building of a parking garage—a parking garage that is scheduled to be finished after my expected graduation date.

The administration has expressed its desire to transform Saint Leo into a "walking campus," a desire I actually concur with. Indeed, the walking I do on campus comprises the bulk of the total exercise I get in each week. I only ask that I be allowed some place to walk *from*, as in a place to park my car and begin my daily walk to classes. Alas, I have difficulty finding a starting point from which to strike out upon my pedestrian journeys.

By the way, my fellow students are not off the hook. I can't help but notice that some of the license plates taking up the few parking spots near Crawford, Lewis, and St. Ed's halls come from places like New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey, which would seem to indicate that many of our

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Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editors:

In reading your endorsement of Senator Hillary Clinton in the 07 Dec 2007 issue of The Lions' Pride I am confused about what it means to be a Catholic or a Catholic institution.

In this issue, Brandy Scaglione writes about Andrea Mosley's presentation to the Student Leadership Conference and Mosley's unapproved use of a condom in promoting protected sex. According to Scaglione, "The Student Government Union had to quickly rectify the situation," having a talk with Mosley after her presentation. According to Ana DiDonato of Student Involvement this was necessary because, "we are a Catholic school, and we have our values system and beliefs and... There are just certain rules that we do to keep our Catholic values and traditions."

Sen. Clinton is a documented proponent of oral contraceptives, "emergency contracepion," and abortion of pregnancy. In her 24 Jan 2005 speech to New York State Family Planning Providers Clinton states, "...I am a proud co-sponsor of the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage — the so-called EPICC. The legislation would require private health plans to cover FDA-approved prescription contraceptives and related medical services to the same extent that they cover prescription drugs and other outpatient medical services." Relative to emergency contraception Clinton says, "Another form of family planning that should be widely available to women is 'Plan B,' Emergency Contraception."
NARAL Pro-Choice America gives Sen. Clinton a score of 100% voting record. For the record, NARAL was founded in 1968 and is an acronym for National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws. Regarding abortion made legal by Roe v. Wade, Clinton says, "Today Roe is in more jeopardy than ever, and I look forward to working with all of you as we fight to defend it in the coming years."

The Holy Roman Catholic Church takes an unpopular and tough position on reproductive rights. In trying to understand the Church's position, I found the following:
- From the Vatican: Psalm 139:16 "Your eyes beheld my unformed substance"; Among all the crimes which can be committed against life, procured abortion has characteristics making it particularly serious and deplorable. The Second Vatican Council defines abortion, together with infanticide, as an "unspeakable crime".

From Vatican leader Archbishop Angelo Amato, Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in an address to chaplains 23 April 2007; Abortion is called 'voluntary interruption of pregnancy' and not the killing of a defenseless human being, an abortion clinic is given a harmless, even attractive, name: 'centre for reproductive health'; Abortion... [is] terrorism with a human face; and abortion clinics are slaughterhouses of human beings.

It seems that either the school owes an apology to Ms. Mosley for imposing its Catholic beliefs on her or the school owes the readers an apology for printing a political endorsement bereft of Catholic theology.

Respectfully submitted,
Galen Garrison
SLU MBA (May 2008 Graduation)

Editor's Response

Dear Mr. Garrison:

The Lions' Pride appreciates your letter and the discussion it encourages on important issues that affect today's students. However, *The Lions' Pride* is a student run, campus newspaper that represents the whole student body. Saint Leo University is a Catholic institution; however, people of other faiths or no faiths at all attend classes, and, our endorsements take into account the diversity of views on campus regarding political and social issues. That is why in the
December 7 issue two endorsements were printed. Next to Clinton's endorsement ran an endorsement for Mike Huckabee as well. On January 28, 2007 during the televised "Meet the Press Candidate series," Mike Huckabee said, "My view is that God is the creator and instigator of life." He may not be a Catholic, but he shares the Vatican's views on many issues. Furthermore, Scaglione's *Leadership Conference Discusses Decisions* appeared on the front page as an news article, which does not include the newspaper's view. That is what the editorial page is for. Our editorial section is not related to our news section regardless of Catholicism.

WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in room 106 in the Student Community Center. Our phone number is (352) 588-8316. Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not a publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters are subject to editing. *The Lions' Pride* reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.

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mates and friends to reach out and get their friends assistance," said Jolly.

There are many warning signs for students to look out for if they are in fear of a friend's well being, including dramatic changes in personality, or if someone is particularly withdrawn, hopeless, and feels trapped. Also, if someone is using substance abuse as well, particularly for the college age group, this increases the risk of depression and suicide.

Since last fall's incident, counseling services has seen an increase of people coming in to talk to them about a friend. This is a big change from last year.

"Good things are coming out of a bad situation. Students and faculty are becoming more aware of one another, depression symptoms, and counseling services. This is an exciting change. Students seem to be more concerned of one another and people's pain," said Jolly.

If someone is uncomfortable coming in to talk to a counselor, other resources are offered. Saint Leo has a lot of literature available concerning depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and more on the wall located outside Counseling Services in deChantal Hall. Also, there are websites, such as halfofus.com, and ulifeline.com, where students can get information and help. Saint Leo is linked to ulifeline.com. Students can log on and make an appointment with Counseling Services and also take a mental health self-evaluation.

"This website is dynamite. You can take a self assessment and get all kinds of information on college age mental health," said Jolly.

Fifty-eight percent of college aged people surveyed reported feeling so depressed during the last 12 months that they could not manage their lives. To combat these statistics, Saint Leo's Counseling Services "aggressively market themselves to make sure everyone knows they are out there and available," reported Jolly.

For more information and resources, students are urged to visit the Student Counseling Center in deChantal Hall. The Counseling Center's hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., by appointment. Extended hours are arranged on an individual basis. To schedule an appointment, contact Lawson Jolly at (352) 588-8354 or lawson.jolly@saintleo.edu, or contact Tricia Thibodeau at (352) 588-8457 or tricia.thibodeau@saintleo.edu.

We Want You!

***The Lions' Pride* is currently looking for staff writers and an a assistant online editor. For more information contact Editor Kristin Brittain at kristin.brittain@saintleo.edu**

Middle grades education department receives $270,000 grant

BY KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief

In November 2008, the middle grades education department received $270,000 grant, making Saint Leo one of only two private colleges to receive this funding.

The grant money will be divided and used in several areas, as well as to improve and add technology resources. Two classrooms in Crawford Hall will receive a makeover consisting of new technology, including a Smart Board, and a document camera in each room. Also, MP3 players and an electronic student response system will be added to enhance lessons and student activities through pod casting.

The money will also further support an ongoing project.

"Currently, one of the middle schools we work with has a global connection with a school in China," said Assistant Professor and Middle Grade Program Coordinator Candace Roberts. "Their students and teachers have been working with those in China for over a year now."

Through the grant money, equipment for telecommunicating will be added to the two rooms in Crawford. Now, Saint Leo students will be able to communicate with students at universities around the world.

"It's a fascinating and exciting project. We would like for our students who are preparing to be teachers to be ready to make these same kinds of global connections with their future students," said Roberts.

The middle grades education department will also be developing two professional development schools (PDS).

"The grant will provide the resources to develop the two professional development schools, providing the best possible learning environment for our students during their field experiences and internships," said Roberts.

PDS are based on the teaching hospital models where veteran teachers are committed to mentoring Saint Leo students as they prepare for their careers

"PDS are schools that are committed to effective professional development for both their own veteran teachers as well as those who are preparing to be teachers," said Roberts.

The two participating schools are Pasco Middle School and Centennial Middle School. Committees were formed at both schools and have already begun planning.

Saint Leo's education department will be hosting a summer retreat paid for by the grant money. For three days, 4O teachers will participate in the summer camp in which they will prepare for their roles as mentors, partners, and colleagues.

"We will be able to provide continuous care and education for our students as we consistently partner with teachers who have a heart for working with pre-service teachers and helping them grow into the profession," said Roberts. "These teachers will know our programs and faculty and will consequently be able to provide excellent field experiences for them"

Approximately $140,000 of the grant money is being set aside to be used for scholarships for new students entering into the middle grades education program on the main campus as well as the other centers. The scholarships are not merit based; the purpose of the scholarship money is to recruit new students into teaching. However, a 2.5 GPA is required to enter the program.

This grant will affect Saint Leo students and the education department in many ways. Not only will it help students financially, but it will better prepare students to teach in the 21st century.

"The grant will provide the resources to prepare the program to be submitted to the State of Florida Department of Education to acquire state accreditation for the new program" said Roberts.

The new middle grades program (grades 6-9) will also prepare students to teach high school as well as middle school.

"When students graduate from this program, they will have everything they need to teach high school; all they'll need to do is add on the content area state teacher exam for grades 6-12, and they will be equally certified for middle and high school teaching. Our methods courses address the needs of high school teachers as well as middle school teachers" said Roberts.

The students within the program who wish to teach high school will receive the financial assistance that will be given to the others entering the middle grades program with the money provided by the grant.

The money must be spent by June 30 of this year, or the remainder of it has to be returned. For further information on the scholarships available contact Roberts at (352) 588-8430.

Budget crisis threatens to cut FRAG funding

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

Current and prospective college students of private universities across the state of Florida could be losing some much needed funding beginning the fall semester of 2008.

Florida residents who attend private colleges and universities to date receive aid from the state known as the Florida Resident Access Grant (FRAG). Currently, each student receives $3,000 per school year. All students living in the state 12 months prior to the first day of the semester and enrolled in their first bachelor's degree program at a private university are eligible.

Unfortunately for these students, their money is at risk of being greatly reduced due to the proposed budget cuts for 2008. In order to save Florida from a budget crisis, Governor Charlie Crist has proposed various budget cuts including a 39 percent cut to be made to the FRAG within this year.

In an effort to combat this potentially disastrous decision, an organization composed of all the private universities and colleges across the state, known as the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF), attended a conference in Tallahassee to speak with various Florida legislatures about the issue. Some of these schools include Barry University, Nova Southeastern, University of Miami, and Jacksonville University.

And, Saint Leo was right along side of them. Vice president of the sophomore class, Daniel Izquierdo, is greatly involved in ICUF at Saint Leo and is known as a presidential fellow. He joined Dr. Arthur Kirk Jr., president of Saint Leo, in Tallahassee in an attempt to defend the FRAG and its importance to the students.

"My main duty was to emphasize how much the FRAG means to me and the thousands of college students who have decided to attend private universities across the state," he stated.

Izquierdo, along with Kirk, attended this three-day conference in late January to discuss the issues with legislatures from places including Zephyrhills, St. Petersburg, Port Richey, and Tampa. Izquierdo had the opportunity to speak personally with these legislatures, including Will Weatherford, a representative from Zephyrhills.

"He seems to be behind us the most," Izquierdo said. "He himself is a Jacksonville University graduate and received the FRAG, so I believe he understands and fully supports our goal."

According to Izquierdo, Weatherford informed the committee that there currently is an estimated five to eight percent probable cut to the FRAG.

This cut will not only affect Florida resident students, but also non-residents attending these universities. The FRAG currently helps fund thousands of students' tuitions across the state. If this

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resident students are foregoing the "walking campus" thing (not to mention the shuttle vans) and driving the long quarter-mile from their dorm rooms to their classes. I suppose that is their right, but it is still undeniably irritating for those of us who have no choice but to drive from our homes to campus each day. Perhaps the solution is for commuters like me to park our cars at Marmion/ Snyder and take the shuttle so as to leave more spaces open for our "resident commuters."

I suppose I can also blame the U.S. Government for the lack of parking at Saint Leo as well. After all, depending on how many yellow cones used to "borrow" spots from the school, there are up to ten parking spots reserved on any given day for a U.S. Post Office residing in a single-wide trailer. Can ten customers even fit in that thing at the same time?

A few days ago, I decided to leave my house early so I could make sure to get a parking spot. Unfortunately, all of the Saint Leo administration staff had returned from their lunch breaks prior to my arrival. After circling each parking lot five times, I became desperate—I really don't like endangering pedestrian traffic any longer than necessary—so I parked in a grassy spot next to some other vehicles behind the University Technology Services building. Mind you, there were no signs asking me to "keep off the grass." When I came out from class, Campus Security was about to write me a citation. They were gracious enough to let me off with a warning since I got to my car before they'd written the ticket.

It seems a shame to me that the officers responsible for the safety of students are forced to become meter maids due to the lack of available parking. By all reports (and by my own dealings with them), Saint Leo's Campus Security does an outstanding job for the students. It is regrettable that the duty of delivering bad news under windshield wipers falls to them, a duty which often provokes resentment towards them they don't deserve.

I've complained enough, and I do indeed feel better. Unfortunately, my renewed feelings of contentment and cosmic harmony will likely be short-lived. Depending on my luck, I'm liable to spend up to one to two hours of my coming week searching for that elusive prize known as a Saint Leo campus parking spot.

Colleges of Central Florida Career Consortium

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http://www.ccfcc.com/events.htm
Transportation and Resume Writing Assistance is available
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In deChantal Hall- Career Services

Ash Wednesday Services on University Campus

Wednesday, February 6, begins the Lenten season. University Ministry will begin the day with a prayer service and provide ashes throughout the day. All services will be held in the Saint Jude Chapel below the Clock Tower of the Student Community Center Complex.

Prayer Service: 7:45 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
Between classes: 8:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.,
Prayer Service: 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Lunch: 1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
School Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration: 9:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy Lake Jovita and the lakefront

All faculty, staff, students and their immediate family members are welcome to take advantage of Saint Leo University's access to Lake Jovita. The lakefront is open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Canoes, kayaks, and sailboats are available for use on the lake and lifeguards are on duty during the scheduled hours of operation.

University Sport and Fitness Center

The facility is now open to the public for $30 a month, with each immediate family member half off after the first month. There are four certified personal trainers who offer personal training services to the faculty, staff, students and local community at a competitive price. For additional information and fitness class schedules, please visit the Website at http://saintleolions.athleticsite.com

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Leoland lends helping hand

BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

Spring semester's Community Service Day was held on January 21, the same day Saint Leo University honors Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK). Last semester, Veteran's Day was celebrated on the same day as Community Service Day as well. Students use to get these days off, but the president decided to make good use of these days.

Last spring, one of the leadership classes on social justice attended a MLK celebration. Afterwards, they discussed how students could do more to honor MLK Day and Veteran's Day.

One of the proposals made was to have a campus wide Community Service Day take place on the two holidays, along with the ceremonies usually taking place on campus.

The idea was brought to Dr. Maribeth Durst, vice president of Academic Affairs, who then thought it was a great idea. She carried the idea along to the president's staff who all agreed. The change was put into effect for the fall 2007/spring 2008 academic year.

According to Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, having Community Service day on the two holidays has ensured more staff and faculty are able to volunteer.

Photographed by Brandy Scaglione
A huge crowd of do-gooders showed for this years community service day.

"We have seen a good number of students come to community service day and attend the ceremonies because they don't have to worry about classes during the day," Ramsey said. "It's such a great way for us to be servant leaders and give back to the greater community surrounding Saint Leo University."

Ramsey wasn't the only one happy to give back to the greater community.

Colleen Shanahan spent her day at Edwinola, a full service Retirement Community for senior citizens who require some help with their daily activities. Edwinola also offers Alzheimer's care.

Shanahan spent her day playing a horse racing game, but not with real horses. This game consisted of plastic horses and dice, which were rolled in order to advance. After the game, Shanahan served juice and helped the seniors back to their rooms.

"Some of them were really getting into the game. They were cheering really loud!" Shanahan said. "Going to Edwinola was a very uplifting experience. The Alzheimer's patients don't get out and do much often. It was nice to see them get excited and smile about something. Heather, the woman who put this together, told us the patients don't get excited over just anything. Knowing that, I know I did something good. I love that I was able to put a smile on someone's face, even if it was just for an afternoon."

This year's Community Service Day did have a positive turn out. As far as the future is concerned, there has been no talk of changing either date. The University will most likely keep the integrated celebrations of Community Service days and the two national holidays as they are for the year to come.

Saint Leo honors Martin Luther King Jr.

BY JESSICA O'KEEFE
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

On January 21, 2008 the Saint Leo student body and faculty had the honored privilege of taking part in the Martin Luther King Jr., Servant Leadership Program "Livin like Mama D" with Patti Ramey. This incredible program touched everyone who was lucky enough to hear it. The program entailed a talk on servant leadership, and then the story of a woman who lived out the true meaning of servant leadership.

The presenter, Patti Ramey, began the program with eight key points to being a servant leader, and tied that into the life of Martin Luther King Jr. She explained how when she began volunteering she learned the importance of Dr. King's famous quote, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." She encouraged the crowd to volunteer once a week for a few hours, explaining the way she began her career in Residence Life.

The second part of the program told the story of Mama D, a woman who traveled to America from the Philippines in search of a career in Hollywood. When she first arrived in Los Angeles, California, she began doing work in film. While shooting a movie near Skid Row, the cast and crew joked with the director, complaining that there were too many extras playing the homeless. The director assured them that none of them were extras. Mama D became disturbed by these vast numbers of homeless, and so, decided to do something about it. Every Sunday, she went to Skid Row and fed the homeless. She did this faithfully until she passed away from cancer. Ramey mentioned how Mama D never told anyone she had cancer. She knew if she did she would be forced to stop feeding the homeless, and she couldn't let that happen.

Ramey read a quote from the sermon "The Drum Major Instinct" by Martin Luther King Jr.: *If you want to be important-wonderful. If you want to be recognized- wonderful. If you want to be great- wonderful. But recognize that he who is the greatest among you shall be your servant.* This quote explains the true definition of greatness. These simple yet meaningful words left the crowd in awe.

Martin Luther King Jr. is famous for his commitment to the civil rights movement, but not many know about his strong passion for servant leadership. Mama D is a great example of the importance service is to leadership and of Martin Luther King Jr. dream.

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

funding is cut, universities will lose this compensation and be forced to raise tuition rates in drastic measures. This could force many students to withdraw from private universities and resort to cheaper options such as public universities and community colleges.

"What most of these students don't realize is that this funding helps keep tuition at a stable rate," Izquierdo said. "Without it, many students run the risk of losing a private education."

Unfortunately for these students, public universities are currently at capacity.

"UF is at 50,000 students as of right now. UCF is probably one of the biggest universities in the country," Izquierdo confirmed. "Students who have to leave these private universities might not get into the public universities thinking there are spaces available."

This cut could also greatly affect incoming freshmen and transfer students in the fall of 2008. According to Weatherford, although there is a great chance there will be a small cut to the FRAG, current students will still be able to receive some funding. However, there is a proposed issue that incoming freshmen and transfer students attending private universities starting next fall, will not.

"Basically, if a student is attending Jacksonville University, they will receive the FRAG," Izqueirdo explained. "However, if that student were to transfer to Saint Leo, they will not longer receive the FRAG. This is an outrage to ICUF."

Izquierdo also tried to inform the legislatures of the damaging effects this cut could cause for Florida's economy.

According the ICUF's *Top Ten Reasons* list on why the FRAG should not be cut, the number one reason is "ICUF Graduates are a quarter of the states future nurses, teachers, engineers, computer scientists, and bio-medical professionals. Half of the FRAG recipients are in these critical needs majors. ICUF produces 41% of all teaching degrees granted for Florida. This cut will erode the supply of the very graduates that the Florida chamber of commerce and governor have proclaimed Florida must have to create the 'world class talents' that drive the state's economy forward."

"For this reason alone, ICUF schools do so much for our state," Izquierdo stressed. "We are contributing to this economy, and by making this cut the state will suffer the consequences."

Fortunately for Florida students, the governor's budget is not set in stone. Therefore, in an effort to let the voices of Saint Leo students be heard, Izquierdo was asked personally by Kirk to set a plan in motion.

"Dr. Kirk and the vice president have approached me and told me they want me to help start a big campaign here," Izqueirdo said. "They want me to get students, faculty, staff, alumni, and family members to go out there, write letters, send e-mails, call the governor and other representatives and flood the phone lines. If we speak loud enough, our voices will be heard."

Izquierdo encourages all Saint Leo students to get involved in this campaign.

"Tell your family members and friends to help out. Write letters, call your local representatives, and tell them what the FRAG means to you and your fellow classmates," he said. "If the legislatures see that it's really affecting us, it could have a big impact on their decision."

For more information on the FRAG and other grant programs, students can check out *www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org.*

Saint Leo feels the beat

BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

Saint Leo University felt the beat on Tuesday, January 22 when some 30 students attended a drum circle. This circle, hosted by sophomore Jennifer Duffey, was put on by Steve Turner and his protégé Joel Yoder.

"This is a great way for the community to come together," Duffey said.

Turner had visited Saint Leo before when Duffey's sorority, AST, sponsored him. AST also just happened to be one of Turner's best circles.

"I had a blast," said junior Ryan Poticny. "I go to a lot of drum circles back home in St. Augustine. Drum circles are unique and it's nice to see people enjoy themselves. When I heard there was going to be one at Saint Leo, I decided to take a chance and go. I'm glad I did."

Poticny is not the only one who really enjoyed himself. Father Stephan showed up as well. Turner had been encouraging dancing all night, but everyone was too shy, everyone but Father Stephan, that is. He entertained the circle with his smooth dance moves similar to African ritualistic dances.

Turner has been in the drum circle business for about 15 years, but he has always wanted to be a bongo player. He encouraged everyone to make up their own beat which, surprisingly, all flowed well together. He taught the circle short and sweet African songs, which he weaved in wonderfully with the bongo music.

"The Spirit has brought me to a place of bliss," Turner said. Turner has a total of 120 drums that he owns, and a total of 350 within his company, Giving Tree Music. Turner has a lot of cherished memories, and it was difficult for him to choose just one.

Saint Leo students and faculty feel the beat at the drum circle

Photograph by Simone Williams

"I love every circle I do! I work with a lot of special needs groups and it's great to see people open up. There's a special connection formed and I meet a lot of new people," Turner said with a smile.

Turner met Yoder at a folk festival in Florida. They have been working together for the past few months now.

"I work with mentally disabled adults. I think drum circles could be an enriching experience for them," Yoder said.

Yoder mainly travels with Turner in Florida with hopes of someday starting his own company.

Turner and Yoder do parties, festivals, team building, and many other group rhythm facilitations. He can be contacted at 727-736-7789.

Photograph by Simone Williams

Fr. Stephan dances to the beat of the drums.

His website is *www.givingtreemusic.com* and his email is *info@givingtreemusic.com*.

Seniors return laptops

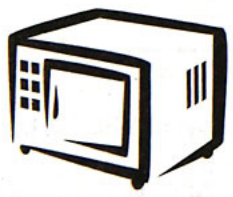
BY AMANDA CAIN
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

The time is fast approaching when the graduating campus class of 2008 must return their laptops to University Technology Services (UTS).

With Saint Leo University's spring semester well under way, many seniors are gearing up for graduation in May. Laptops can be dropped off anytime during the week of graduation; they may also be turned in on graduation day, May 3, 2008. Graduating campus seniors are asked to return their laptops to the UTS building or at any campus senior class event. Before laptop submission, students are asked to back up any pertinent data. If students are enrolled in the honors program and they have fulfilled the program requirements, they will be allowed to keep their laptops.

Repercussions for failure to return the school laptop include a possible delay in transcript and diploma release. Student accounts will also be adjusted to include a charge for the price of the laptop. Reminders of important dates and instructions will be posted regularly throughout the semester in an effort to keep students informed. UTS will also be coordinating a campus wide event for returning laptops with senior class president, Mary Major.

It is extremely important that all seniors follow the requests and directions of Saint Leo University and the UTS department when returning the school's laptops. With some timely cooperation in this step of transition from student to graduate, this year's laptop returning process could be the smoothest one yet.



Campus Cooking

BY KRISTIN BRITTAIN
Lions' Pride Editor in Chief

Campus cooking is not just limited to popcorn and hot chocolate. Check out these three great dishes to get you from morning until night without having to brave the cafeteria.

Breakfast:

Breakfast burrito
1 egg
Cheese
Salsa
Choice of precooked breakfast meat

Scramble egg in a mug or cup, microwave for 45 seconds. Warm tortilla in the microwave; and, add the scrambled egg, cheese, salsa, choice of already cooked breakfast meats, or any other desired topping. Roll tortilla and enjoy!

Lunch:

Reuben
Two slices of rye bread
Corn beef or pastrami
Swiss cheese
Sour craut
Thousand island dressing

Add lean corn beef or pastrami to one piece of bread. Combine Swiss cheese, sour craut, Russian dressing (thousand island) on the other piece of bread and microwave open face until cheese melts (around 45 seconds), and combine both pieces.

Dinner:

Mexican baked potato

1 potato
Salsa
Sour cream
Cheese
Tortilla chips
Guacamole

Microwave potato for 10 minutes; and, add cheese, sour cream, salsa, tortilla chips, and guacamole.

Bon appetite!

Roe Vs. Wade 35 years later

BY JESSICA O'KEEFE
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

January 22, 2008, marks the 35th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to pass the abortion rights *Roe v. Wade*. Every year on this date, the March for Life, an annual pro-life rally, is held in Washington D.C. Here thousands upon thousands of students and adults alike from all across the country march to the Supreme Court building to end abortion.

Here at Saint Leo University, January 22, 2008 marked our first March for Life. A small group of students from the Pro-Life group Imago Dei, peacefully marched from the Abbey Church to the new St. Jude Chapel. Lead by Father Stephen, the group prayed and softly sang there way across campus. The event proved to be a meaningful service and with much hope, will grow to expand for years to come.

Saint Leo Bookstore: An innocent party in a trial of persecution

BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Assisstant Editor

This semester was Saint Leo University Bookstore's first semester on the main campus. In previous years, the old bookstore was near Marmion and Snyder. But, no matter where the bookstore is, it seems that every semester students encounter the same problems. Books just seem to get more and more expensive. And, there is always that one class students have where the books are out of stock for an extended period of time.

"It's true! I had to wait more than a week for my book. I felt like I was lacking resources. I couldn't do my work for class," said sophomore Grio O'Bryan. Many students complain and blame the bookstore. But really, it is not the bookstore's fault at all.

"I was told a week in advance that one of my books wasn't available, giving me time to re-write my syllabus. They were very courteous. Personally, I find that they are very dedicated," said English professor Dr. Kurt V. Wilt.

Linda Frassrand, the bookstore's textbook manager, described the process the bookstore must go through to try and ensure all books needed are available for the upcoming semester. First off, forms are sent out to all professors requesting information for the upcoming semester, such as what classes they will teach and what books they will need. In the fall 2007 semester, these forms were sent out around October 15.

"As soon as we can find out what classes the professors will teach, we can start ordering books. So, the earlier, the better," Frassrand said.

Ordering earlier has other perks as well. Instead of spending a lot of money on new books, finances can be pooled into purchasing used books at a cheaper rate. So, not only does the bookstore save money, but students pay less for their text books as well. And, according to Frassrand, that is their main goal.

Although some professors hand in their forms late, most of the paperwork is completed and handed in on time. But, sending in the forms on time does not mean the books will be arrive on time. This is why they ask for the forms as early as possible.

"Some of the forms come in late for various reasons. Some professors honestly don't know what classes they will teach the following semester. But the better communication we have, the better everything else will be." Frassrand said.

After the forms are received, the staff then takes into account whether or not books can be bought back from students and, if so, how many. About every two years, publishers come out with a new edition for their textbooks. This sometimes proves to be a problem for professors.

"Yeah, for one of the IHT courses, Convention Management and Event Tourism, the publisher changed editions and I didn't find out until later," said International Hospitality and Tourism professor Dr. Stan McGahey.

But the bookstore works hard to ensure that this doesn't happen.

"Last minute changes hurt us, too," said Frassrand.

The bookstore's top priority is to save money while giving the lowest possible prices for books. They look at different distributors for used books first, and then go directly to publishers for new editions. They put in the orders, and then it is all a matter of waiting.

They make an honest effort to buy back as many books as they can from students, and even give up to 50% back for them. But, there are some books they can't get around purchasing every semester. For MAT 128, Algebra and Functions, students have to purchase the custom edition *My Math Lab*. The bookstore would buy back the CD if they could, but they can't.

Despite these unfortunate circumstances, Saint Leo University's Bookstore has an amazing staff that works hard everyday. They are dedicated to the needs of students and sympathize with their complaints. Still, it is important that students remember that the bookstore is just the middleman, and they are not responsible for the inadequacy of the publishers.

Lately, students have been ordering their books from other sources. One popular source is Amazon.com. Also, students use Facebook Marketplace to find other students on campus who can sell them the books they need.

One little known secret on campus is a website that goes by the name www.rentmobooks.com. It is "exclusively designed" for Leoland students to save money by renting out their books instead of selling them back to the bookstore. The website was created by junior Monique Belin and looks to be just getting off the ground and heading straight up.

New travel classes to be offered in fall 2008

BY JESSICA SWANSON
Lions' Pride Copy Editor

In the fall of 2008, Saint Leo University will be offering two new and innovative courses in association with the English, fine arts, and humanities department.

The courses are ART 400ST (Art of the British Isles), taught by Professor Karen Bryant, and ENG 400ST (Studies in World Literature), which is taught by Professor Elisabeth Aiken. Both ART 400ST and ENG 400ST are taught in conjunction with the study abroad trip to Dublin, Wales, Stratford-upon-Avon, and London over Thanksgiving break in 2008. These classes were recently developed in response to what Bryant identified as a "need in [the Department] to apply what we're learning…to bridge the gap between what is taught and learned."

"The trip to Europe will be a learning experience in which students will be able to go over and then immerse themselves in class when they return," Aiken noted.

Although the trip abroad is designed with the students of ART 400ST and ENG 400ST in mind, students and faculty in other learning tracts aside from English, fine arts, and humanities are welcome to travel abroad with the classes.

Saint Leo has partnered with EF Tours to make the Thanksgiving 2008 trip possible.

"I'm so excited. I've always wanted to go to Ireland and this is the perfect opportunity," said junior Emily Belvo.

If enough interest is shown, the ENG 400ST and ART 400ST will become a standing feature within course curriculum. Additional courses and trips to other countries will then be offered in the future. Students do not need to be majoring in fine arts or English to take these courses either. ART 400ST is offered as a general education course and as part of the IIA minor. ENG 400ST is also offered as a general education course or as an English course elective. Students may also sign up for the trip earlier than the class if they wish. The cost is roughly $2500.

An interest meeting will be held on February 4 at 5 p.m. in Boardroom A the Student Activities Center .There will be a follow-up meeting in the same location with an EF Tours representative on February 18 at 5 p.m. to begin discussing information about the trip. For more information, look for the ads on SLU TV, the flyers around campus, or feel free to contact Karen Bryant at karen.bryant@saintleo.edu, or Elisabeth Aiken at elisabeth.aiken@saintleo.edu.

Valentines Day fun facts and helpful tips

BY CHRISTINA BARABAS
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

History

Valentine's Day does not have a clear history. However, there are numerous ideas and beliefs that have created the Valentine's Day as we know it today. There are many stories as to how Valentine or Valentius contributed to the present holiday, but only three particular tales which standout. The first story states that marriages were banished from society and could not be performed in public. This opened the way for a priest named Valentine to perform marriages in secret, thus keeping the hearts true to each other. This could possibly be the start of what we know as a "secret valentine" of today. The next story is that Valentine or Valentius attempted to help Christians escape from the prisons of the Romans. The Christians at that time were in prison to serve the Romans as gladiators. The last story is explains that someone named Valentine wrote letters while he was in jail to a girl he loved. At the end of these letters he would write "From Your Valentine." Valentine's Day is celebrated for the death or the burial of Valentine.

Gift Ideas

When it comes to selecting that perfect gift, women are usually easier to shop for. Most girls would consider chocolates as their best friend. However, teddy bears and flowers are not far behind. Men, on the other hand, are a little harder to shop for. So, a gift certificate to his favorite restaurant or even a home cooked meal are great ways to keep him full and satisfied. Although there are many gift ideas available for purchase, a home made gift would make any one smile. Try making a card, picking a flower, or writing a poem for that special someone.

Random Facts

There are a lot of interesting facts about this holiday. For instance, Valentine's Day is the second largest card sending holiday. There are one billion Valentine cards sent every year. Valentines are mostly purchased by women, which makes up 85 percent of all Valentine purchases. More than 50 percent of all people wait until the week before Valentine's Day to buy their gifts. There are only six countries that celebrate Valentine's Day around the world. These six countries include the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia. Even some pets get a Valentine's gift with 3 percent of pet owners giving their pets gifts. On Valentine's Day, 65 percent of flowers purchased are purchased by men; the other 35 percent are purchased by women.

FTA entertains youth at 2008 Kumquat Festival

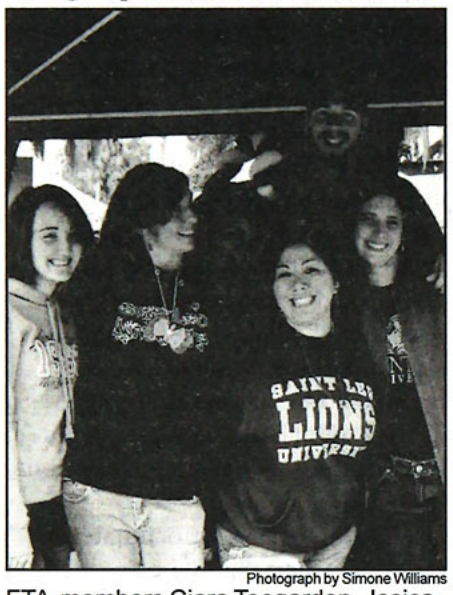
BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Assisstant Editor

Although the skies were overcast and rain fell in moderation, there was still a multitude of people from Pasco County intent on enjoying themselves at Dade City's 11th Annual Kumquat Festival.

This festival, dedicated to the famed fruit of the area, is one of the most looked forward to events of the year. On January 26, downtown Dade City is packed with people, stands, and music. The festival is a great opportunity to meet with locals, buy and sell trinkets and ornaments, and get a taste of Kumquat pie.

Kumquat pie has a varying taste; everything from orange sherbet to tart has been identified with the pie. But, it's safe to say that most people who taste the pie enjoy it. Saint Leo University's own Dr. Stan McGahey is always advocating attending the festival and getting a piece of Kumquat pie in his classes.

Although plenty of Kumquat praising goes on during the festival, it's not the only thing going on. For instance, Saint Leo's Future Teacher's Association (FTA) worked with Heather Aemisegger at the Kumquat Festival. Aemisegger is the Promotions Coordinator for the Pasco Edition of the St. Pete Times. A large square was left for them during the festival in which the FTA offered a wide variety of games for kids.



Photograph by Simone Williams
FTA members Ciara Teegarden, Jesica MacRoe, Joella Hojenski, Chris Kent, Ana Navorro, and Kasey Funes.

The Times has a Kids Corral section and offered for the FTA to help out with the festivities. There were jugglers, balloon animals, a bounce house, and games that included Kumquat Toss and a Kumquat race.

Despite the uncomfortable weather conditions, the Kumquat Festival was enjoyable for all. Hopefully, the sun will be shining next year so everyone can fully experience and enjoy the beauty of downtown Dade City.

Photograph by Simone Williams
FTA's banner hung just a few yards from their booth.

Spotlight H20: Bottled vs. Tap

BY CECELYN DENNIS
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Water is arguably the most essential resource to all forms of life. It accounts for an estimated 80 percent of the Earth and is the focus of many environmental groups.

However, in recent years this precious resource has transformed into a booming business venture: purified, bottled, and shelved for sale.

Bottled water is everywhere ranging from schools, fitness centers, restaurants, and homes. At one point the consumption of tap water was the norm all across America. Now, it seems in many cases due to the rise of its bottled counterpart, tap water is deemed stale and not safe.

According to a study conducted by the Food and Drug Administration, a good majority of consumers stated their reasons for preferring bottled water was convenience, safety concerns, and quality of taste. Also, a 2001 study conducted by the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA), found that Americans consumed an average of 5 billion gallons that year which is equivalent to the amount of water that falls from Niagara Falls within a two hour span. Bottled water can be easily spotted in the hands of many students on campus as they perform their daily activities.

"I like bottled water. I think there is a difference between it and tap water. I also think it is safer," said junior, Rita Aleman when asked her preference.

The safety factor associated with bottled water is a key factor increasing sales. However, there are others who view this situation from a different standpoint.

In a study conducted by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), they came to the conclusion that bottled water is no safer than tap and may actually contain more harmful bacteria. The NRDC supported its findings by stating bottled water goes through less rigorous testing that is sometimes inadequate when compared to tap. Furthermore, it states that tap water is tested more frequently than bottled water.

Another report by the Community Water Company of Green Valley did a comparison in which tap water was picked as the best choice. The company also found that there were inequalities when it came to regulation. Tap was subject to more requirements and was more economical. Some people still prefer to drink tap water and value its benefits too.

"I choose tap water because I love the water back home in New Jersey…it is refreshing and has fluoride," said senior Chenelia Valerio.

Perhaps the most important thing to focus on with this issue is environmental effects.

The plastic from disposable bottles are steadily increasing in landfills which could wreak havoc on the environment. However, some bottle companies and fitness programs are making efforts to help this situation. For example, Nestle Pure Life now makes bottles that contain 30 percent less plastic. NBC's popular television series "The Biggest Loser" has switched from using disposable water bottles.

Uncovered treasure returns to life after 40 year burial

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

With the recent completion of construction last fall, it is unlikely that the new and improved beautified campus here at Saint Leo goes unnoticed.

However, students, faculty, and staff may be quick to pass up one of Saint Leo's oldest standing landmarks. Located just outside the blank entrance of the Student Community Center, a small treasure of Saint Leo's history rests peacefully amongst the newly planted grass.

The fountain was constructed by Father Gregory Traeger back in 1948. Traeger came up with the designs and constructed the fountain by hand using concrete, stones, and an old pumping system. Unfortunately, the fountain didn't stay intact for very long.

"After a while, there was a leak in the fountain," said Brother Lucas, a resident monk and student. "Eventually, the inside was filled in with sod up to the bridge in the early 60s."

The fountain was no longer used and stayed that way for more than 40 years until it was recently uncovered and restored less than a year ago.

"The workers discovered the fountain while construction was being done around the old McDonald Center," Lucas said. "So, they dug it out and put in a brand new pumping system."

An interesting fact about the fountain is that at one point it even housed a small living creature.

"A sea turtle once lived in the fountain before it was covered up" Lucas commented. "It was brought in by a student from Tobago."

The fountain currently sits in the same spot it was constructed in just outside the new community center, fully intact, with the same concrete Father Gregory used some 60 years ago.

Father Gregory recently passed away in 2004 at the age of 90. He was buried in the cemetery on campus just outside the apartments. He was a loved and respected man everywhere he went and spent his remaining days in the Saint Leo Abbey. Although he is gone now, his memory will surely live on through this beautiful and peaceful gift to Saint Leo's campus.